

following amendments and remarks. Reconsideration of the pending claims as amended herein is respectfully requested.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 5-10 and 17 as being drawn to a nonelected invention.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A method of recovering cellular functions *in vitro* in cells following injury, comprising the step of:
contacting said cells with ascorbic acid or a salt of ascorbic acid,
wherein said cellular functions ~~include~~ are selected from the group consisting of proliferation, mitochondrial function, Na⁺-K⁺-ATPase protein activity, and active Na⁺ transport.

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

11. (Twice amended) A method of recovering cellular functions following injury in an individual in need of treatment, ^{*Said method*} comprising the step of:
administering a therapeutically effective amount of ascorbic acid or a salt of ascorbic acid to said individual,

wherein said cellular functions ~~include are selected from the group consisting of~~ proliferation, mitochondrial function, Na⁺-K⁺-ATPase protein expression, Na⁺-K⁺-ATPase protein activity, and active Na⁺ transport.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. (Twice amended) A method of recovering cellular functions in ~~an eye diseases disease~~ or following an injury to the eye of an individual in need of ^{said method} treatment, comprising the step of:

administering an ophthalmic composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of ascorbic acid or a salt of ascorbic acid in an ophthalmically acceptable carrier to said individual,

wherein said cellular functions ~~include are selected from the group consisting of~~ proliferation, mitochondrial function, Na⁺-K⁺-ATPase protein expression, Na⁺-K⁺-ATPase protein activity, and active Na⁺ transport and wherein said ascorbic acid is in the concentration range of from about 0.05 mM to about 0.5 mM.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

16. (Twice amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said injury is selected from the group consisting of acute injury to the eye, ~~eye diseases eye injury~~ associated with the over production of collagen ~~as~~ in conjunctivitis ~~and or~~ diabetes mellitus, and eye